**Fall 2021**

**Cognitive Psychology**

**Psyc317 Section DL2**

Dr. Doris Bitler Davis

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Office hours online by appointment.

The “Ask Dr. Davis” discussion board on Blackboard is a forum for general questions about the course. If you have a question specific to you – for example, about a grade – please email me privately at dbitler@gmu.edu.

**Course description:** This course will introduce you to topics in Cognitive Psychology, including memory, attention, problem solving, and language.

This section of Psyc317 will be taught entirely online and is asynchronous. Content modules will begin on Mondays and run through Sundays. New modules will become available each week.

**Course objectives:**

By the end of the semester students will

* Recognize and understand the basic terms and concepts in cognitive psychology
* Apply these terms and concepts to real-life examples
* Understand research strategies in cognitive psychology by participating in hands-on assignments

**Required text:** Goldstein, B. (2018). *Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience, Fifth Edition*. Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning.

You will need to purchase the Goldstein text as part of the MindTap package, which you **must** access through the course Blackboard site. This is the only way to ensure your quiz and mastery training grades show up in Blackboard and will count toward your final grade.

There is a “MindTap Instructions and Help” link on the Blackboard sidebar.

**Reading:** Reading should be completed by the dates indicated on the schedule. Reading the material in advance will help you to get the most out of the assignments and activities.

**Textbook resources:** Each chapter in the text ends with some important resources you can use to identify sections you need to review. While these sections aren’t assigned, making use of them will help you do well on graded work.

**Chapter slides:** The chapter slides provide a summary of important concepts, but they are not exhaustive and are not a substitute for reading the text.

**Mastery training:** Each week you will complete Mastery training in MindTap, receiving full credit for completion. MindTap follows best practices and includes mandatory breaks, so please begin the training well in advance of the due date.

To understand how Mastery training works, see the “MindTap Mastery Training Video” on the Blackboard sidebar.

Our Cengage Account Executive, Maddie Hunt, will be holding virtual office hours on Zoom if you need help with MindTap or have any questions regarding the course materials available through Cengage. The link to join the meeting is <https://cengage.zoom.us/j/>5438246211

Mondays 12:00 pm - 11:00 pm; 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Tuesdays 8:30 am – 9:30 am; 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Wednesdays 11:30 am – 12:30 pm; 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm; 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Thursdays 11:30 am - 12:30 pm; 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Fridays 8:30 am – 9:30 am; 10:00 am – 10:30 am

Additional evening hours for the start of the semester are 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm on August 25th, August 30th, September 1st, September 2nd, and September 3rd

**Activities:** Activities will let you delve a little more deeply into one of the concepts covered in each chapter, providing you with illustrations of the concepts, and testing your knowledge.

**Weekly discussions:** One of challenges of an online class is that we don’t have the opportunity to talk about things as a group, which often results in interesting tangents beyond the material provided in the text. These weekly discussions are my attempt to replicate that in-person experience while giving you an opportunity to get to know some of your classmates.

Throughout the semester you will be working in small groups to explore and discuss a variety of topics. Each week there will be specific instructions to guide the discussion. You will be expected to contribute to each discussion at least 3 times, submitting 1) your response and 2) substantive feedback to at least two peers.

Each group will need to work together to ensure that everyone in the group succeeds. This includes posting your response early in the week so others in your group can comment.

Your grade for these assignments will consist of:

4 pts Your response to the discussion prompt posted in each weekly module. Your responses should be thorough and descriptive.

6 pts Substantive feedback to two classmates on their responses. I’ll be looking for something that adds to the discussion, so it might be agreement or disagreement (be specific), a question, a thought your classmate’s response provoked, etc.

**Quizzes:** Each chapter will conclude with a 30-question, multiple-choice quiz that you’ll take though MindTap. You’ll see your percentage score immediately after submitting your work and you will be able to see the correct answers about a day after the quiz closes.

Each quiz will be available on MindTap at 12:01 am on the Monday before it is due, and close at 11:59 pm on the Sunday due date. You may take the quiz any time during that period but be sure you are finished before it closes.

You will have 45 minutes to complete each quiz, which is 1.5 minutes per questions.

You are expected to do your own work on the quizzes, but you may use the text and your notes as time allows.

**Late work and make-ups:** Late work will not be accepted.

Make-ups for Mastery, Activity, and Discussion assignments are not available. Make-ups for up to two (2) quizzes will be available the last week of the semester and may be used to replace quizzes that are missed or those that earn lower scores than anticipated, as described below.

The last week of the semester will be devoted to making up missed quizzes or replacing quizzes that earned low grades. Each student will be allowed to choose up to two quizzes to make up or replace.

* Students who are happy with all their quiz grades do not need to take any make-up quizzes.
* If a student takes more than the two allowed make-up quizzes, only the two earliest chapters will be used to replace earlier quizzes and count towards the final grade. For example, if Student A takes four make-up quizzes for Chapters 3, 7, 10, and 12, only the earlier quiz grades for Chapters 3 and 7 will be replaced. The Chapter 10 and 12 grades will not be replaced.

**Grading:** A total of 780 required points are available for the class, broken down as follows:

Quizzes (13) 30 points each 390 points total

Mastery (13) 10 points each 130 points total

Discussions (13) 10 points each 130 points total

Activities (13) 10 points each 130 points total

**Final grades:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A+ 97% and higher | B+ 87% to 89% | C+ 77-79% |
| A 93-96% | B 83-86% | C 74-76% |
| A- 90-92% | B- 80-82% | C- 70-73% |
|  |  | D 60-69% |
|  |  | F 59% and lower |

**Student responsibilities**

**Due dates:** As an online course, the content of Psyc317 will be delivered in weekly modules. For our purposes each week will begin on Monday and end the following Sunday night at midnight. Information about specific due dates will be noted in assignment instructions.

I realize that some of you could be in different time zones. All dates and times listed on the course schedule and Blackboard are based on the time at the Mason campus in Fairfax, Virginia (Eastern Time). Note that Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 am on Sunday, Nov 1, 2020.

**Technology expectations:** You must have reliable access to the internet. Internet service failure is not an acceptable excuse for late work. With possible service disruptions in mind, please don’t wait until the last minute to submit work. If you are uncertain about your home service, consider using the wifi at one of the Mason campuses or find another reliable source of wifi near you.

You will need to be able to access your Masonlive email account [(http://itservices.gmu.edu/services/view-service.cfm?customel\_dataPageID\_4609=11028](http://itservices.gmu.edu/services/view-service.cfm?customel_dataPageID_4609=11028)), Blackboard [(https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu](https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/)), Mason’s web-based Learning Management System and the Cengage MindTap site for this course <https://www.cengage.com/dashboard/#/course-confirmation/MTPPM6KQNQS8/initial-course-confirmation>

Information about a variety of course tools, including Blackboard Mobile, can be found at <http://doit.gmu.edu/students/course-tools/>

**Official communications via GMU e-mail:** Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly. If you are having your Mason mail forwarded to another account, please ensure that your Mason account doesn’t exceed the assigned limit, causing mail to bounce back to the sender.

**Time commitment:** At the university level, in addition to time spent in class, students are expected to put in 2 to 3 times as much time outside of class. For a 3-credit-hour, online class taught over 14 weeks, you can expect 3 hours per week of “class time,” plus an additional 6-9 hours of reading and other work outside of class, for an approximate total commitment of 9-12 hours per week.

**Response time:** In general, you can expect responses from me within 48 hours. I expect that you will respond to my emails within a similar time frame.

**Disability accommodations:**  If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me early in the semester. If you have not already done so, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474.  All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Please keep in mind that it might not be possible to grant last-minute requests for accommodations, so it is important to make all arrangements well before the date when the accommodation is needed.

**Honor code:** All students are expected to be familiar with, and abide by, the University Honor Code. As required by the Honor Code, all suspected violations will be reported.

**Important dates:** Last day to add a class – February 1

Last day to drop a class – February 16

Unrestricted withdrawal period – February 17 to March 1

Selective withdrawal period – March 2 to April 1

More information about the University’s drop/withdrawal deadlines can be found at <https://registrar.gmu.edu/drop-withdrawal-deadlines-faqs/>

**Enrollment:** Every student is responsible for verifying correct enrollment. Graded work will not be returned to students who are not officially enrolled.

**Cognitive Psychology**

**Spring 2021**

**Semester Schedule**

All readings for the lecture portion of this course will be in Goldstein’s *Cognitive Psychology: Connecting Mind, Research, and Everyday Experience*

Graded work appears in **orange**

**Week 1**

Read: Chapter 1 – Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

Review: End-of-chapter resources

View: Chapter overview on Blackboard

**Complete: Chapter 1 Mastery Training**

**Participate: Weekly Discussion**

**Engage: Chapter 1 Activity**

**Take: Chapter 1 Quiz**

**Week 2**

Read: Chapter 2 – Cognitive Neuroscience

Review: End-of-chapter resources

View: Chapter overview on Blackboard

**Complete: Chapter 2 Mastery Training**

**Participate:** **Weekly Discussion**

**Engage: Chapter 2 Activity**

**Take: Chapter 2 Quiz**

**Week 3**

Read: Chapter 3 – Perception

Review: End-of-chapter resources

View: Chapter overview on Blackboard

**Complete: Chapter 3 Mastery Training**

**Participate: Weekly Discussion**

**Engage: Chapter 3 Activity**

**Take: Chapter 3 Quiz**

**Week 4**

Read: Chapter 4 – Attention

Review: End-of-chapter resources

View: Chapter overview on Blackboard

**Complete: Chapter 4 Mastery Training**

**Participate: Weekly Discussion**

**Engage: Chapter 4 Activity**

**Take: Chapter 4 Quiz**

**Week 5**

Read: Chapter 5 – Short-term and Working Memory

Review: End-of-chapter resources

View: Chapter overview on Blackboard

**Complete: Chapter 5 Mastery Training**

**Participate: Weekly Discussion**

**Engage: Chapter 5 Activity**

**Take: Chapter 5 Quiz**

**Week 6**

Read: Chapter 6 – Long-term Memory: Structure

Review: End-of-chapter resources

View: Chapter overview on Blackboard

**Complete: Chapter 6 Mastery Training**

**Participate: Weekly Discussion**

**Engage: Chapter 6 Activity**

**Take: Chapter 6 Quiz**

**Week 7**

Read: Chapter 7 – Long-term memory: Encoding, Retrieval, and Consolidation

Review: End-of-chapter resources

View: Chapter overview on Blackboard

**Complete: Chapter 7 Mastery Training**

**Participate: Weekly Discussion**

**Engage: Chapter 7 Activity**

**Take: Chapter 7 Quiz**

**Week 8**

Read: Chapter 8 – Everyday Memory and Memory Errors

Review: End-of-chapter resources

View: Chapter overview on Blackboard

**Complete: Chapter 8 Mastery Training**

**Participate: Weekly Discussion**

**Engage: Chapter 8 Activity**

**Take: Chapter 8 Quiz**

**Week 9**

Read: Chapter 9 – Conceptual Knowledge

Review: End-of-chapter resources

View: Chapter overview on Blackboard

**Complete: Chapter 9 Mastery Training**

**Participate: Weekly Discussion**

**Engage: Chapter 9 Activity**

**Take: Chapter 9 Quiz**

**Week 10**

Read: Chapter 10 – Visual Imagery

Review: End-of-chapter resources

View: Chapter overview on Blackboard

**Complete: Chapter 10 Mastery Training**

**Participate: Weekly Discussion**

**Engage: Chapter 10 Activity**

**Take: Chapter 10 Quiz**

**Week 11**

Read: Chapter 11 – Language

Review: End-of-chapter resources

View: Chapter overview on Blackboard

**Complete: Chapter 11 Mastery Training**

**Participate: Weekly Discussion**

**Engage: Chapter 11 Activity**

**Take: Chapter 11 Quiz**

**Week 12**

Read: Chapter 12 – Problem Solving and Creativity

Review: End-of-chapter resources

View: Chapter overview on Blackboard

**Complete: Chapter 12 Mastery Training**

**Participate: Weekly Discussion**

**Engage: Chapter 12 Activity**

**Take: Chapter 12 Quiz**

**Week 13**

Read: Chapter 13 – Judgement, Decisions, and Reasoning

Review: End-of-chapter resources

View: Chapter overview on Blackboard

**Complete: Chapter 13 Mastery Training**

**Participate: Weekly Discussion**

**Engage: Chapter 13 Activity**

**Take: Chapter 13 Quiz**

**Week 14 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

**Week 15**

Quiz make-up/replacement week (more information is available on the syllabus and detailed instructions will be posted on Blackboard)